Cleaning of rivers

3871. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "States wavering on plan to clean up rivers" reported in the Pioner dated 29th March, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the national River Conservation Authority's proposal to clean rivers in various States has met with lukewarm response from States;

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to clean the rivers in various States?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The National River Conservation Authority met under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister on 13-3-2001. All the participating States of National River Conservation Plan attended the meeting and unanimously endorsed the resolution regarding cleaning of rivers.

(b) Under National River Conservation Plan, various schemes of pollution abatement like sewage interception and diversion, sewage treatment plant, crematoria, low cost sanitation and river front development have been taken up for 27 rivers in 16 States and 149 towns. The approved cost of these works is Rs. 3080 crore. An expenditure of Rs. 614 crore has been incurred on the Plan so far.

Funds for development of forests in Andhra Pradesh

3872. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated for development of forests in Andhra Pradesh during the last five years;

(b) whether the funds allotted for the purpose during this period have been inadequate; and